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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 H-01
IO-15 NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06 I-03 TRSE-00
PM-09 PA-02 MCT-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /090 W
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R 251555Z NOV 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6766
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN/INTAFF
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 8998
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW NOVEMBER 14-21

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY FS DATE 10/29/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 58 PERSONS WERE VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE LAST WEEK. EMBOFFS SAW AT LEAST SIX ADDITIONAL VICTIMS AT A WIDELY-REPORTED BODY DUMP AT EL PLAYON. THE SKELETAL REMAINS OF AN APPROXIMATELY 30 MORE VICTIMS WERE VISIBLE AT THE SITE. TERRORIST INCIDENTS REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CABANAS, CUSCATLAN, AND SAN VICENTE. END SUMMARY.
2. DEATHS AND DISSAPEARANCES:
AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 58 PERSONS BECAME VICTIMS OF EL SALVADOR'S CONTINUING VIOLENCE LAST WEEK. THE ACTUAL TOTAL

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WAS SOMEWHAT HIGHER, FOR EXAMPLE, BODIES FOUND AT THE EL PLAYON BODY DUMP (SEE BELOW) RECEIVED NO COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS. REGARDING THE 58 POLITICAL MURDERS, PRESS ACCOUNTS BLAMED LEFTIST TERRORISTS FOR NINE DEATHS AND THE SECURITY FORCES FOR ONE DEATH. THE KILLERS OF THE REMAINING 48 VICTIMS WERE UNKNOWN. THE FATE AND ABDUCTORS OF THE THREE PERSONS WHOSE DISSAPEARANCE WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS WERE ALSO UNKNOWN.
3. STATISTICS.
THE BODIES OF THE 58 VICTIMS WERE FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:
SAN SALVADOR(CITY 18
SANTA ANA 7
SAN MIGUEL 7

LA PAZ	4
LA LIBERTAD	13
CABANAS	6
CUSCATLAN	1
AHUACHAPAN	1
USULUTAN	1
TOTAL	58

AN AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE DEAD YIELDS THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

A. AGE 17 AND UNDER	5
B. AGES 18-25	11
C. AGES 26-35	10
D. AGES 36-5)	7
E. AGES 51 AND OVER	0
F. UNKNOWN	25
TOTAL	58

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AN OCCUPATIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE VICTIMS GIVES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
2 NIGHT WATCHMEN
7 CAMPESINOS
1 CIVILIAN MILITIA COMMANDER
1 PATRULLERO
1 OFF-DUTY NATIONAL POLICEMAN
1 OFF-DUTY NATIONAL GUARDMAN
37 UNKNOWN
1 TAXI DRIVER
1 DRIVER
1 MASON
3 FARMERS
1 MERCHANT
1 EMPLOYEE
58 TOTAL
4. EL PLAYON. CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESS IS AN INADEQUATE MEASURE OF THE VIOLENCE HERE WAS FOUND IN A VISIT BY EMBOFFS TO A REPORTED BODY DUMP AT EL PLAYON (LA LIBERTAD). THE SITE, ABOUT 15 MILES FROM THE CAPITAL IS A LAVA BED NORMALLY USED AS GARBAGE DUMP. AN 11/14 VISIT TO THE SITE REVEALED SIX FRESH BODIES ON THE LAVA BEING DEVOURED BY VULTURES. THE DEATHS OF THESE SIX PERSONS RECIVED NO COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA. SKULLS AND BONES OF AT LEAST AN ADDITIONAL 30 PERSONS WERE SCATTERED ABOUT THE SITE. CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST THAT MOST VICTIMS DIED VIOLENTLY. (MOST SKULLS WERE MARKED BY HOLES IN THE CRANIUM).
5. INCIDENTS. TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUED UNRATED LAST WEEK WITH A HEAVY CONCENTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF CABANAS, SAN VICENTE, AND CUSCATLAN. MUCH ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED ON THE APPROACHES TO SUCHITOTO IN CUSCATLAN.

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NOTABLE INCIDENTS WERE THE 11/17 MACHINE GUNNED OF A
PASSENGER CARRYING TRUCK IN SAN VICENTE DEPARTMENT: THREE
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PERSONS WERE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED IN THE ENCOUTER, AND
A SIX HOUR ATTACK ON THE TOWN OF APOPA NORTH OF THE CAPITAL
ON 11/15.
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